

News

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SAN DIEGO CONSUMER PRICES INCREASE 2.3 PERCENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2001 – 5.7 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Consumer prices in the San Diego metropolitan area rose 2.3 percent during the first half of 2001 according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson said advances in shelter and, to a less extent, food and beverages prices were largely responsible for the overall increase in the past six months. Compared to the same period a year ago, the all item index rose 5.7 percent. The area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers advanced to 190.1 (1982-84=100) during the first half of 2001. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$190.10 during the last six months. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

During the first six months of 2001, the overall housing index advanced 3.6 percent due to increases in shelter, and provided the strongest pressure to the all items index. The shelter component rose 4.1 for the six-month period and 6.2 percent over the year. Within shelter, rent of primary residence advanced 3.6 percent while owners' equivalent rent of primary residence increased 3.8 percent in the last six months. From a year ago, these indexes rose 7.4 and 6.7 percent, respectively. The household fuels and utilities category advanced 3.9 percent during the first half of 2001 and was 26.9 higher than the same period in 2000. Within household fuels, the natural gas service index surged 54.2 percent during the past six months and rose a notable 104.2 percent over last year's level. For both periods, the increases in natural gas service are the largest recorded since the series began in 1972. Slightly offsetting the rise in utility natural gas service, prices for electricity declined 17.2 percent during the first six months of this year. Nevertheless, the electricity index is up 28.2 percent for the same period a year ago.

The food and beverages category advanced 2.9 percent since the second half of 2000 and moved up 5.4 percent over the year. During the first half of 2001, grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, increased 2.0 percent while the cost of dining out rose 2.5 percent. For the same period, prices for alcoholic beverages advanced 3.1 percent. Over the past year, grocery prices rose 5.7 percent, the cost of eating out increased 4.3 percent, and alcoholic beverage prices went up 3.5 percent.

The overall transportation index rose 0.8 percent during the first half of 2001. Gasoline prices advanced 1.9 percent during the same period, following a 10.0 percent gain in the second half of 2000. Compared to a year ago, consumers paid 12.1 percent more for gasoline and 4.3 percent more for overall transportation.

The medical care index increased 2.3 percent in the first half of 2001 and was up 3.5 percent from last year's level.

The category for education and communication advanced 1.5 percent over the past six months, and measured a smaller increase of 1.3 percent over the past 12 months.

The index for recreation moved up 0.3 percent in the recent six-month period, following a 10.1 percent jump during the last six months of 2000. Over the year, costs for recreation moved up 10.5 percent, also the highest percentage increase among all major categories.

The miscellaneous other goods and services index declined 0.6 percent during the first half of 2001, but increased 2.8 percent from the same period in 2000.

During the past six months, apparel prices decreased 1.1 percent and posted the largest percentage decline of all the major categories for this period. From a year ago, apparel prices are down 3.4 percent.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

San Diego, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2001 from-	
	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	1st half 2001	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000
Expenditure category					
All items	179.8	185.8	190.1	5.7	2.3
All items (October 1967=100)	608.2	628.2	642.6	-	-
Food and beverages	167.1	171.2	176.1	5.4	2.9
Food	165.0	169.5	174.3	5.6	2.8
Food at home	162.3	168.3	171.6	5.7	2.0
Food away from home	167.8	170.8	175.0	4.3	2.5
Alcoholic beverages	183.9	184.6	190.3	3.5	3.1
Housing	187.3	193.7	200.7	7.2	3.6
Shelter	207.0	211.2	219.9	6.2	4.1
Rent of primary residence	186.9	193.7	200.7	7.4	3.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1)	216.9	223.0	231.4	6.7	3.8
Fuels and utilities	125.6	153.4	159.4	26.9	3.9
Fuels	97.9	144.8	142.1	45.1	-1.9
Gas (piped) and electricity	96.7	144.6	141.4	46.2	-2.2
Electricity	89.6	138.7	114.9	28.2	-17.2
Utility natural gas service	121.8	161.3	248.8	104.3	54.2
Household furnishings and operations	166.0	167.3	168.5	1.5	0.7
Apparel	132.9	129.8	128.4	-3.4	-1.1
Transportation	159.6	165.2	166.5	4.3	0.8
Private transportation	152.9	158.7	159.8	4.5	0.7
Motor fuel	126.8	139.5	142.1	12.1	1.9
Gasoline (all types)	126.9	139.6	142.3	12.1	1.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular (2).....	129.9	144.2	146.7	12.9	1.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (2) (3).....	113.4	124.1	126.9	11.9	2.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium (2).....	130.5	141.6	144.6	10.8	2.1
Medical care	255.0	257.9	263.9	3.5	2.3
Recreation (4).....	113.5	125.0	125.4	10.5	0.3
Education and communication (4).....	98.0	97.8	99.3	1.3	1.5
Other goods and services	269.0	278.3	276.5	2.8	-0.6

See footnotes at end of tables.

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Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2001 from-	
	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	1st half 2001	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000
Commodity and service group					
All items	179.8	185.8	190.1	5.7	2.3
Commodities	156.3	162.1	163.6	4.7	0.9
Commodities less food and beverages	149.2	156.0	155.6	4.3	-0.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	145.3	149.9	149.5	2.9	-0.3
Durables	153.6	163.6	163.1	6.2	-0.3
Services	200.9	206.9	213.5	6.3	3.2
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	176.0	181.9	186.1	5.7	2.3
All items less shelter	170.4	177.3	179.7	5.5	1.4
Commodities less food	151.1	157.6	157.4	4.2	-0.1
Nondurables	157.3	161.7	163.9	4.2	1.4
Nondurables less food	148.5	152.8	152.9	3.0	0.1
Services less rent of shelter (1)	204.1	213.1	217.5	6.6	2.1
Services less medical care services	195.5	201.5	208.1	6.4	3.3
Energy	112.5	140.5	140.7	25.1	0.1
All items less energy	186.8	191.2	195.5	4.7	2.2
All items less food and energy	191.6	195.9	200.1	4.4	2.1

1 Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

2 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

3 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

4 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.